

# SENATE, No. 3091

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 18, 2018

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator LINDA R. GREENSTEIN**

**District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes “Invasive Species Task Force.”

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



1 AN ACT establishing an “Invasive Species Task Force.”

2

3 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
4 *of New Jersey:*

5

6 1. a. There is established the “Invasive Species Task Force.”  
7 The task force shall be comprised of five members as follows:

8 (1) The Commissioner of Environmental Protection, or the  
9 commissioner’s designee, who shall serve ex officio and who shall  
10 serve as chairperson of the task force;

11 (2) The Secretary of Agriculture, or the Secretary’s designee,  
12 who shall serve ex officio;

13 (3) The Commissioner of Health, or the commissioner’s  
14 designee, who shall serve ex officio;

15 (4) The State Forester, or the State Forester’s designee, who  
16 shall serve ex officio; and

17 (5) The Executive Director of the New Jersey Agricultural  
18 Experiment Station at Rutgers, the State University, or the  
19 Executive Director’s designee, who shall serve ex officio.

20 b. The task force shall organize no more than 30 days  
21 following the effective date of this act. The task force shall meet at  
22 the call of the chairperson. The task force shall dissolve on the 60th  
23 day after the date of submission of the report to the Governor and  
24 the Legislature pursuant to subsection b. of section 2 of this act.

25 c. The members shall serve without compensation, but may be  
26 reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the performance of  
27 their duties and within the limits of funds available to the task force.

28 d. The task force shall make recommendations by a majority  
29 vote of its members.

30 e. The Department of Environmental Protection and the  
31 Department of Agriculture shall provide staff support to the task  
32 force. The task force shall, however, be entitled to call to its  
33 assistance and avail itself of the services of the employees of any  
34 State department, board, bureau, commission or agency, as it may  
35 require and as may be available for its purposes.

36

37 2. a. The Invasive Species Task Force shall:

38 (1) study the most efficient means of controlling invasive  
39 species;

40 (2) develop uniform policies and a coordinated response to the  
41 threat posed by invasive species to the State’s native and  
42 agricultural vegetation, and ecological, cultural, historical, or  
43 infrastructure resources;

44 (3) develop a plan to prevent new invasive species from entering  
45 the State, and limit the continuing spread of invasive species that  
46 are already present;

47 (4) develop a plan to control infestations that currently exist;

1 (5) develop a plan to restore ecosystems to their natural  
2 condition, and to repair damage caused by invasive species;

3 (6) identify regulatory and statutory obstacles and inefficiencies  
4 at the federal, State, and local levels impeding the development or  
5 implementation of prevention, control, and restoration efforts;

6 (7) evaluate the 2009 New Jersey Strategic Management Plan  
7 for Invasive Species, prepared by the New Jersey Invasive Species  
8 Council pursuant to Executive Order No. 97 of 2004;

9 (8) explore and develop alternatives in addition to those  
10 discussed in the 2009 New Jersey Strategic Management Plan for  
11 Invasive Species, to control the entry and spread of new invasive  
12 species into the State;

13 (9) prepare a comprehensive invasive species management plan  
14 for the State that shall include an estimate of the resources  
15 necessary for its implementation; and

16 (10) prepare recommendations for legislative action necessary  
17 to implement the report.

18 b. No later than one year after the task force organizes, the task  
19 force shall prepare and submit a report of its findings, plans, and  
20 recommendations to the Governor and, pursuant to section 2 of  
21 P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the Legislature.

22  
23 3. This act shall take effect immediately.  
24  
25

26 STATEMENT  
27

28 This bill establishes an "Invasive Species Task Force" which  
29 would be comprised of five members, including: (1) The  
30 Commissioner of Environmental Protection, or the commissioner's  
31 designee, who shall serve ex officio and who shall serve as  
32 chairperson of the task force; (2) The Secretary of Agriculture, or  
33 the Secretary's designee, who shall serve ex officio; (3) The  
34 Commissioner of Health, or the commissioner's designee, who shall  
35 serve ex officio; (4) The State Forester, or the State Forester's  
36 designee, who shall serve ex officio; and (5) The Executive  
37 Director of the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station at  
38 Rutgers, the State University, or the Executive Director's designee,  
39 who shall serve ex officio.

40 The Invasive Species Task Force would:

41 (1) study the most efficient means of controlling invasive  
42 species;

43 (2) develop uniform policies and a coordinated response to the  
44 threat posed by invasive species to the State's native and  
45 agricultural vegetation, and ecological, cultural, historical, or  
46 infrastructure resources;

- 1       (3) develop a plan to prevent new invasive species from entering
- 2 the State, and limit the continuing spread of invasive species that
- 3 are already present;
- 4       (4) develop a plan to control infestations that currently exist;
- 5       (5) develop a plan to restore ecosystems to their natural
- 6 condition, and to repair damage caused by invasive species;
- 7       (6) identify regulatory and statutory obstacles and inefficiencies
- 8 at the federal, State, and local levels impeding the development or
- 9 implementation of prevention, control, and restoration efforts;
- 10       (7) evaluate the 2009 New Jersey Strategic Management Plan
- 11 for Invasive Species, prepared by the New Jersey Invasive Species
- 12 Council pursuant to Executive Order No. 97 of 2004;
- 13       (8) explore and develop alternatives in addition to those
- 14 discussed in the 2009 New Jersey Strategic Management Plan for
- 15 Invasive Species, to control the entry and spread of new invasive
- 16 species into the State;
- 17       (9) prepare a comprehensive invasive species management plan
- 18 for the State that shall include an estimate of the resources
- 19 necessary for its implementation; and
- 20       (10) prepare recommendations for legislative action necessary
- 21 to implement the report.
- 22       No later than one year after the task force organizes, the task
- 23 force will prepare and submit a report of its findings, plans, and
- 24 recommendations to the Governor.